

## WE CLAIM:

1. A financial transaction payment system, comprising:  
a consumer depository account maintained by a first financial institution holding funds on behalf of said consumer; and  
a payment card for conducting one or more transactions and incurring charges associated with each such transaction, said card being issued to said consumer by a second financial institution, said card further being linked to said depository account maintained at said first institution for covering said charges.
2. The financial transaction payment system of claim 1, further comprising:  
deducting means for automatically deducting from said depository account on a periodic basis an amount to pay a portion or all of said charges.
3. The financial transaction payment system of claim 2, wherein a credit limit is associated with said card, which limit is reduced based on said charges, and refreshed automatically as a function of said deducting means.
4. The financial transaction payment system of claim 3, further comprising:  
billing means operated by said second financial institution for periodically informing said consumer of said charges made on the card and of the amount received from said consumer depository account to cover said charges.
5. A method for conducting financial transactions comprising:  
establishing a consumer depository account maintained by a first financial institution holding funds on behalf of said consumer; and  
issuing a payment card for conducting one or more transactions and incurring charges associated with each said transaction, said card being issued to said consumer

by a second financial institution, said card further being linked to said depository account maintained at said first institution for covering said charges.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

automatically deducting from said depository account on a periodic basis an amount to pay a portion or all of said charges.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein a credit limit is associated with said card, which limit is reduced based on said charges, and refreshed automatically as a function of said automatically deducting step.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

periodically informing said consumer by said second financial institution of said charges made on the card and of the amount received from said consumer depository account to cover said charges.